



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**COUNCIL ON CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH**

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Council on Children's Mental Health  
February 23, 2012  
10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Committee Meetings  
11:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. CCMH  
Otter Creek Church of Christ

**MEETING SUMMARY**

***Attendee List:***

Joanna Bane  
Sumita Banerjee  
Susan Bell  
Kathy Benedetto  
Monica Blanton-Kitts  
Shawn Brooks  
Pam Brown  
Debbie Cagle  
Monica Causay  
Janet Coscarelli  
Janice Davidson  
Mary Jane Dewey  
Katrina Donaldson  
Jon Ebert

Jeff Feix  
Deborah Gatlin  
Kathy Gracey  
Jeanne James  
Petrina Jesz  
Mary Katsikas  
Dustin Keller  
Shelley Martin  
Nneka Norman-Gordon  
Linda O'Neal  
Steve Petty  
Cindy Potts  
Laurie Powell  
Raphaëlle Richardson

Mary Rolando  
John Rust  
Steve Sparks  
Sukey Steckel  
April Stewart  
Sarah Suiter  
Millie Sweeney  
David Switzer  
Heather Wallace  
Sej West  
Alysia Williams  
Mark Wolf

**Welcome and Introductions (Dustin Keller)**

- Keller welcomed participants to the meeting and explained the co-chairs were involved with duties at the legislature and would be late to the meeting. He reminded the Council members that copies of the System of Care Core Values and Guiding Principles were available on each table.

**Acceptance of Meeting Summary (Keller)**

- December 8, 2011 Meeting Summary Acceptance (**ROLANDO MOTION, JAMES SECOND, PASSED UNANIMOUS**).

#### **TennCare Update (Dr. Jeanne James)**

- Dr. James stated the TennCare Bureau would have their legislative budget hearings in March. The proposal made to the governor in the fall is on the TennCare website.
- Dr. James noted the rate cuts proposed by TennCare for mental health and other providers were not included in the Governor's final proposed budget. However, no funds were received from the federal government for the Special Disability Workload so an additional cut to provider rates was effective in January. Legislation has been filed to offset this cut retroactively.

#### **Workgroup Reports**

- *Collaboration and Adoption (Vickie Hardin)*
  - The group is recommending the use of the Behar instrument, titled "A Community Readiness Assessment for Implementing a System of Care" for a community readiness assessment. She asked that local stakeholders review policies and procedures in their community as well as strategic plans for SOC language. The group would also want to encourage the TennCare Bureau to use SOC language in its contracting language.
  - Sukey Steckel volunteered to send copies of other state's Community Readiness Assessment instruments.
- *Community Outreach and Awareness (Millie Sweeney)*
  - The group continues to work on Fact Sheets, defining common terms and overall design. They will meet again in March and review the drafts.

#### **Tennessee Department of Mental Health (TDMH) Update (Marie Williams)**

- Williams gave an update on TDMH's budget that currently includes \$10,567,600 in non-recurring funds. The Governor's FY2013 Budget recommends \$7,418,800 of that funding recurring and not continuing \$3,148,800. It was necessary to prioritize the most important programs. Cost enhancements were requested for the behavioral safety net, community alcohol and drug grants, criminal justice mental health/alcohol and drug liaisons, recovery services, and alcohol and drug treatment services. Cost enhancements were not requested for peer support centers, planned respite, TeenScreen or childcare consultation services. For the first time in the department's history, community funding will surpass funding for the Regional Mental Health Institutes.
- The Governor accepted the Commissioner's plan to close Lakeshore Mental Health Institute in Knoxville. This funding will be reinvested in crisis services (including crisis stabilization units), medically monitored detox crisis beds, and supportive living homes. In addition, three private non-profit hospitals (Ridgeview, Woodridge and Peninsula) will be contracted to provide additional inpatient psychiatric hospitalization beds.
- Williams reported Commissioner Varney asked her to point out that in the Top to Bottom Review document, page 84, Recommendation #8 calls for expanding and improving mental health services for children and youth.

- Dr. Burley's staff is currently working on best practices for community programs for children and youth mental health services.

### **Tennessee Integrated Court Screening and Referral Project (Dr. Jeff Feix)**

*Refer to handout entitled "Tennessee Integrated Court Screening and Referral Project" provided at the meeting and attached for your convenience.*

- TDMH and the Administrative Office of the Courts received a Mental Health/Criminal Justice grant from the federal Department of Justice to develop an Integrated Court Screening and Referral Project. The grant partners consisted of the Governor's Office of Children's Care Coordination, Department of Children's Services (DCS), Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, Tennessee Voices for Children and the Vanderbilt Center of Excellence. The grant has been used to implement the project in ten pilot counties: Dickson, Hawkins, Lawrence, Marion, Madison, Macon, McNairy, Morgan, Obion and Washington.
- The program recently received a one year no cost extension. To date, 43 Youth Services Officers in 10 juvenile courts have been trained to administer the CANS. Nearly 2,000 youth considered delinquent have been screened. The Administrative Office of the Courts is handling the data management for the project. Family Support Providers are used in five selected counties to provide additional case management and referral services. Of the youth screened, 61 percent were found to have mental health issues. Most youth are referred to community based outpatient services by DCS court liaisons or the Family Support Providers.
- The goals of the project are to establish a model for early screening and intervention, reduce recidivism, increase diversion from the juvenile court system, and improve mental health/substance abuse services availability and accessibility.

### **Attachment, Regulation and Competence (ARC) (Dr. Jon Ebert)**

*Refer to the PowerPoint entitled "Attachment, Regulation and Competence" provided at the meeting and attached for your convenience.*

- In May, the Centers for Excellence (COEs) across the state will begin to provide child service providers with additional training for children impacted by complex trauma called ARC. This training expands on the Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) already provided by the COEs. To date, 629 clinicians in 43 agencies have been trained in TF-CBT. ARC's three core domains are a safe caregiving system, the ability to regulate/tolerate experience, and support the mastery of an array of tasks crucial to resilience.
- Intervention cannot focus on the child alone. It should be done in layers, i.e., "build a nest" so the child will feel safe. Caregiver involvement is essential.

### **TCCY Update (Linda O'Neal)**

*Refer to the handout entitled "Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth Impact Statements" provided at the meeting and attached for your convenience.*

- O'Neal expressed her apologies for not being at the meeting sooner; however, she was presenting at one of TCCY's legislative budget hearings.
- O'Neal discussed two major impacts statements approved by the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth. Since 1988, the TCCY executive director has been appointed by

the 21-member Commission. TCCY is an independent state agency charged with providing advocacy, evaluation and information about Tennessee's children. Proposed legislation would have the executive director appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of the Governor, as opposed to the Commission. The executive director would not be able to be an effective advocate for the best interest of children but instead would only be able to advocate for the issues approved by the Governor. Serving at the pleasure of the 21-member Commission insulates the Executive Director from the conflicts of partisan politics and allows for effective advocacy and continuity of good public policy for Tennessee children.

- O'Neal also reported the appropriations bill, the Governor's proposed budget, calls for the elimination of the Children's Program Outcome Review Team (CPORT). TCCY opposes this legislation, as CPORT is the only annual, independent review of a random sample of cases of children who are in or at risk of state custody. It is a vital mechanism for improving quality and practice in the provision of services to these vulnerable children.

### **Legislative Update (Steve Petty)**

*Refer to the handout entitled "Legislative Update" provided at the meeting and attached for your convenience.*

- Petty provided the Council with an update on legislation filed relating to children's mental health.
- Petty also provided the bill numbers for the legislation changing the appointing authority for the Executive Director, SB 2249/HB 2387. Another notable piece of legislation concerns the Second Look Commission (SLC). The bill numbers are SB 2316/HB 2538. The SLC brings stakeholders together to address the issues of severe and/or recurring child abuse.

### **Future Meetings (Linda O'Neal)**

- O'Neal reminded participants the April meeting will focus on the Report to the Legislature. The Council should begin to finalize recommendations for a rough draft.
- O'Neal asked the Council members to review the Whole Kids Festival handout provided in the meeting packets from the Children's Mental Health Coalition. It is a call for volunteers for the May event at the Bicentennial Capital Mall.
- Richard Kennedy spoke about the agenda for the fourteenth annual Children's Advocacy Days scheduled for March 13-14 titled "Adventures in Advocacy."
- The Department of Health is sponsoring the Early Childhood Summit. The event is June 13-14 at the Convention Center. Additional information will be provided by email.